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Portugal-US: Lisbon expects payment for continuing to let the US have base facilities. (Page 4)

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Portugal-US: Lisbon has made clear that it expects some payment in return for continuing to let the US have base facilities in the Azores.

The US-Portuguese agreement on peacetime use of the Azores bases lapsed in 1962, but Lisbon has permitted the US to remain on a de facto basis pending resumption of talks on a new agreement. In January 1969 the Portuguese asked that conversations be renewed, but they have not acted on the US response that it would consider any proposals Lisbon wished to make.

In a talk with the US ambassador last week, however, Portuguese Foreign Minister Rui Patricio said that his government was purposely not taking a final position until the possibilities of US compensation could be better assessed. He stressed that Portugal has no intention of trying to cause the US to abandon its Azores facilities and is prepared to consider any form of compensation Washington might wish to propose.

Rui Patricio added that Portugal understood the problems for the US in granting military assistance, but observed that Lisbon would welcome general economic aid or educational aid, or both. He made it clear that Lisbon does not count past US military assistance, which has amounted to some \$300 million, as compensation for the base facilities.

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